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## Students pay a "technology fee" of \$38.00 per term

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# Students pay a "technology fee" of \$38.00 per term

Submitted by Michael Moore

9/8/2005

## Question:

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Students pay a "technology fee" of \$38.00 per term. This Fall the College of Education has 1642 undergraduates and 1173 graduate students enrolled. Each of them pays this fee. The College of Education generates \$106,970 in technology money for the University. Does the College of Education receive any money from this fee? If so, how much? If not, why not? Does any college receive any money from this collected fee? If so, which ones? How much? and Why?

If the answer is that none of the colleges receive benefit from this fee, then why not?

## Rationale:

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My understanding is that our College of Education receives no money from the "technology fee" implemented each term. I have talked to others in our college (including those on our technology committee) who would like to know why the various colleges receive nothing from this fee even though our students pay it each term. I am assuming that none of the other colleges receive any money either. If any of the colleges receive money from the fee, I would like to know which ones and how much. It seems that all the colleges have technology issues (enhanced classrooms among other needs) that would benefit from additional money. Are there plans for the colleges to benefit from this money in the future?

## SEC Response:

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Pat Humphrey: 10/6/2005 I spoke with Lisa Spence of IT Services yesterday. She told me the process for applying for these funds is being revised to make the application

form more consistent with the approval criteria that have been developed. They are also going to be providing more feedback on how decisions were made and where individual applications ranked to make the process more transparent. Meanwhile, for information, I have also posted information on all applications and funds granted for the past three fiscal years. From the Senate Executive Committee, 9-29-2005: Response to Michael Moore's request: No unit of the University automatically receives any money from the Technology Fee. All money is awarded competitively by a committee comprised of six students and six faculty members. Criteria for award by the committee include heavy weighting on the number of students affected and availability. These fees (\$38.00 per semester for all students beginning ?? (They are in the catalog back to 1998-99), increased to \$57.00 per student this semester, Fall 05) are assessed regardless of the number of credit hours enrolled. For the past three years, using enrollment data from the Strategic Research and Analysis office at <http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/osra/student/>, the fees generated between \$1.388 and \$1.479 million per year. For 16,500 students Fall 05 at \$57 each, the technology fee amounts to \$940,500. The following summary information of monies requested and awarded was provided by Provost Linda Bleicken September 26. Further breakdowns will be forthcoming.

#### Student Technology Fees

Year	Number of Proposals	Total requested	proposals funded	Funding awarded
FY 2003	124	\$2,723,240	31	\$1,084,485
FY 2004	87	\$1,862,579	43	\$959,335
FY 2005	158	\$4,166,801	50	\$1,910,894

From the SEC minutes of 9-20-2005: Colleges must now apply for the money and applications are approved by a committee. The structure of that committee is a concern, since some Colleges received money and others received none. Michael stated that he felt that some percentage of the funding should go to every College. There was also discussion of lack of money for maintenance and repair of equipment obtained by use of technology fees.

## Senate Response:

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Minutes: 9-26-2005: Since the last senate meeting in June, there has been one information request. Michael Moore, from the College of Education, asked about the allocation of technology fees. The short answer is that no money from these fees automatically goes to any college. You have to apply for it. There is a committee comprised of six students and six faculty that evaluate the proposals, rank them, and award the money. Information that we received from Dr. Bleicken indicates that priority is given to the number of students impacted and to accessibility. She just gave me some information, just to hit the highlights, but there will be more detailed information coming soon. FY 2003, there were 124 proposals totaling \$2,723, and some odd dollars. They awarded 31 proposals totaling a little over \$1 million. FY 2004, there were 87 requests totaling \$1,862,000, and 43 proposals were awarded a total of \$959,000. FY 2005, there were 158 proposals totaling roughly \$4.2 million, and 50 proposals were funded for about \$1,900,000. She will be getting some more detailed information to me as to what exactly was funded where.

Michael Moore (COE): On the two requests for information, you said more information would be coming. Would this be brought up again at the next Senate meeting? Or, how will that be handled?

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Chair of the Senate Executive Committee: Yes, and it will also be posted online.

Michael Moore (COE): Okay, so it will probably be better to wait until all the information is in.

Patricia Humphrey (COST), Chair of the Senate Executive Committee: I think so, yes.